

REMARKS

Claims 1-52 are pending in this application. Claims 1-2, 5-7, 20, 46-47, 49, and 51 are independent. In light of the amendments and remarks contained herein, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections.

In the outstanding official action, the Examiner rejected claims 46-47, 49 and 51 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. The Examiner further rejected claims 1-52 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Fields et al. (USP 6,412,008). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner rejected claims 46-47, 49, and 51 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 (second paragraph) asserting the term “approximately” renders the claim indefinite. By this amendment, Applicant has amended the claims to more appropriately recite the present invention. It is respectfully submitted that these amendments are being made without conceding the propriety of the Examiner’s rejection, but merely to timely advance prosecution of the present application. Based upon this amendment, it is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

In support of the Examiner’s rejection of claim 1, the Examiner asserts that Fields et al. discloses generating edit-command information which represents a command to edit the editing object in accordance with the editing information and also transferring the edit-command information to the image server, at the edit-command unit cited in column 6, lines 10-30 and obtaining intermediate processed image data by applying an editing image to the editing date in accordance with the edit-command information and also transferring the intermediate processed image data to the client, at the editing unit cited in column 6, lines 32-45. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner’s characterization of this reference.

The disclosure of Fields et al. is directed to a system and method for cooperative client/server customization of web pages. Fields et al. discloses a process by which a client sends a request for a network file, such as a web page, to a server. The server obtains the requested network file, and a server side customization program and customizes the file. The server side customization program may also analyze the network file and may embed return customization information in a customized network file. The client receives the customized network file, including the return customized information, from the server. A client side customization program then performs further customization on the network file (abstract).

Specifically, at column 6, lines 32-45, Fields et al. discloses:

Referring again to FIG. 4, the client then sends an HTTP request to a server (step 102). The HTTP request includes the user agent string, the corporate options, and the personal options. The client then waits to receive the requested file from the server (step 104). The file that is received has been customized or modified according to the user agent string, and the requested corporate and personal options.

Next, the client checks to see if there is return customization information included in the returned file (step 106). If so, the client reads the return customization information (step 108). The client then performs further customization based on the return customization information, along with any other known user preferences and/or current conditions (step 110).

In contrast, the present invention as set forth in claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, an image editing method comprising obtaining intermediate processed image data by applying an editing process to the editing data in accordance with the edit-command information. As noted above, Fields et al. merely discloses a client receiving the edited file data together with the return customization information where the client customizes the edited file data in accordance with the return customization data. There is no teaching or suggestion in Fields et al. that is directed to obtaining intermediate processed image data by applying an editing process to the editing data in accordance with the edit-command information at the image server. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that for at least this reason, Fields et al. fails to anticipate claim 1.

The Examiner further asserts that Fields et al. discloses editing information reportedly referring to return customization information. Citing to column 4, line 65 through column 5, line 8. Again, Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's characterization of this reference.

Fields et al. discloses at column 4, line 65 through column 5, line 8 as follows:

Referring again to FIG. 2, server 32 obtains the requested network file, and server-side customization program 44 customizes the file according to the user agent string, the corporate options, and the personal options. Server-side customization program 44 also analyzes the network file, and may embed return customization information in customized file 60, as shown in FIGS. 3B and 3C. Return customization information 62 may be stored before file data 64 (as shown in FIG. 3B), or return customization information 62 may be embedded at various points in file data 64 (as shown in FIG. 3C).

In contrast, the present invention as set forth in claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, an image editing method comprising transferring editing information, which represents the one editing object corresponding to the inquiry, to the client, at the editing unit. It is respectfully submitted that while Fields et al. disclose the server side customization program customizing the file according to the user agent string, and embedding return customization information in a customized file, that these teachings are insufficient to teach or suggest editing information as set forth in the claimed invention. For at least this reason, it is respectfully submitted that Fields et al. fails to anticipate the present invention by failing to teach or suggest all of the claimed elements. As such, it is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejection be withdrawn.

Finally, the disclosure of Fields et al. is clearly directed to a method and system for editing and customizing web pages. However, there is no teaching or suggestion in Fields et al. that is directed to editing images as clearly recited in claim 1. As such, it is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejection be withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 3-4 are allowable for the reasons set forth above with regard to claim 1, at least based upon their dependency on claim 1. It is further respectfully

submitted that claims 2, 5-7, 20, 46-47, 49, and 51 include at least one element similar to those discussed above with regard to claim 1 and thus, these claims together with claims dependent thereon, are allowable for the reasons set forth above with regard to claim 1.

Conclusion

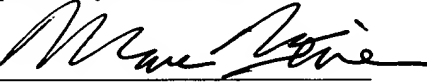
In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Catherine M. Voisinet (Reg. No. 52,327) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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